

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 1:22-cv-21386

MILIGZA RIVERA,

Plaintiff,

v.

MSC CRUISES, S.A.,

Defendant.

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**COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES  
AND DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

Plaintiff, MILIGZA RIVERA (“Plaintiff”), through undersigned counsel, sues Defendant, MSC CRUISES, S.A. (“Defendant”), and demands trial by jury, stating as follows:

**PARTIES AND JURISDICTION**

1. Plaintiff seeks damages in excess of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest, costs and attorney's fees.
2. This Court has admiralty and maritime jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1333.
3. This Court has diversity jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, as the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, and is between citizens of different states and/or citizens of a state and citizens or subjects of a foreign state.
4. Suit is filed in federal court because of the federal forum selection clause in the passenger contract ticket issued by Defendant.
5. Plaintiff is *sui juris* and is a resident and citizen of the state of Florida.
6. Defendant is a foreign corporation who is authorized to conduct and who does conduct business in the state of Florida, who at all times material hereto was and is doing business

in Miami-Dade County, Florida, and who maintains its corporate headquarters and principal place of business in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

7. Defendant is a citizen of the state of Florida and the nations of Switzerland and Italy.
8. Defendant, at all times material hereto, personally or through an agent, in Miami-Dade County, Florida, in the Southern District of Florida:
  - a. Operated, conducted, engaged in or carried on a business venture; and/or
  - b. Had an office or agency; and/or
  - c. Engaged in substantial activity; and/or
  - d. Committed one or more of the acts stated in Florida Statutes, §§ 48.081, 48.181 or 48.193.

9. All conditions precedent for filing and maintaining this action have been fulfilled, have been waived, or do not apply.

#### **DEFINITIONS AND FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

10. Hereinafter, the phrase, the “subject area,” shall include, but not be limited to, the floor/deck and surfaces thereof, and all material and effects pertaining thereto, including any anti-slip/skid material that was applied or that should have been applied, and/or other parts thereof, the lighting in the subject area, drains that were or should have been in the area to reduce the amount of liquid in the area, any sources of liquid in the subject area and/or the sources of the liquid involved in Plaintiff’s incident, the area and surface’s design and/or visual condition, and/or any other applied, adhesive, and/or other material, and/or the ship’s stabilizing fins/mechanisms.

11. At all times material hereto, Defendant owned, operated, maintained, managed, and/or controlled the subject area and the vicinity involved in Plaintiff’s incident.

12. At all times material hereto, Defendant owned, operated, maintained, managed, and/or controlled the cruise ship, the *MSC Divina*.

13. On or about October 30, 2021, while Plaintiff was a fare paying passenger on Defendant's vessel, the *MSC Divina*, and as Plaintiff was walking in the vicinity of the Black and White Club on Deck 7 in a normal and proper manner, she slipped and fell on a foreign transitory liquid substance, and hit her head on the floor. As a result, Plaintiff suffered severe injuries and/or other damages/injuries. Moreover, Plaintiff suffered a concussion and possibly a traumatic brain injury, in addition other injuries, as a result of her fall. However, Defendant failed to diagnose Plaintiff's serious brain injuries despite the fact that Plaintiff told Defendant's medical staff that she fell on her head, as well as failed to adequately treat and follow up with Plaintiff regarding these injuries and the pain Plaintiff was experiencing, in addition to other failures to exercise reasonable care.

14. The dangerous and/or risk creating conditions include, but are not limited to, the following conditions present on the date of Plaintiff's incident:

- a. The floor Plaintiff slipped on was contaminated with a foreign liquid substance.
- b. The floor Plaintiff slipped on was unreasonably slippery.
- c. The floor Plaintiff slipped on was poorly maintained such that it was unreasonably slippery.
- d. The floor Plaintiff slipped on lacked adequate slip resistant material.
- e. The floor Plaintiff slipped on was uneven and not uniform in dimensions.
- f. The visual condition of the floor was such that it was difficult for Plaintiff to discern that it was slippery prior to Plaintiff's fall.
- g. There were no adequate handrails in the subject area.

- h. There was either non-existent drainage for the subject floor or any such drainage was not reasonably draining liquid from the subject area at the time of Plaintiff's incident.
- i. There was inadequate lighting in the area.
- j. There were no adequate warnings in the subject area.
- k. Other conditions that may be revealed in discovery, as discovery is ongoing.

15. In addition, Defendant either knew or should have known of these risk-creating and/or dangerous conditions, due to reasons that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Plaintiff previously observed Defendant's crew members regularly use and/or observe the subject floor, and Plaintiff recalls seeing them use and/or observe them on at least two to three, if not more, prior occasions between the first day of Plaintiff's cruise and the time of Plaintiff's incident, including two to three crewmembers in the area at the time of her incident, such that Plaintiff reasonably infers that these crew members regularly used/were observing the floor and therefore were or should have been familiar with the dangerous and/or risk-creating conditions thereof.
- b. After Plaintiff fell, it became apparent to her that the liquid on the subject floor must have been there for a lengthy period of time, because the amount of pooled/accumulated liquid present on it did not appear that it could have suddenly appeared in a short amount of time, as the liquid did not appear to be draining from the subject floor much, if at all, and the liquid must have been present for at least 15 minutes, as liquid does not drain/dry immediately, and can sometimes take many hours to dry (as a quick Google search will show), and discovery may shed more light on this situation as well.
- c. Previous passengers suffered prior incidents involving foreign transitory substances

on the subject ship, the MSC Divina, or other ships in its fleet, including, but not limited to, the Plaintiff in *Goldstein v. MSC Cruises, S.A.*, Case No. 0:18-cv-61348-WPD, *Hodson v. MSC Cruises, S.A.*, 1:20-cv-22463-FAM, *Meliah v. MSC Cruises, S.A.*, Case 0:20-cv-61341-RS, *Lorenzo-Garcia v. MSC Cruises, S.A.*, Case 1:20-cv-23552-DPG, and *Milana v. MSC Cruises, S.A.*, Case 1:20-cv-21482-CMA.

- d. Upon information and belief, Defendant participated in the installation and/or design of the subject floor and area, or alternatively, Defendant accepted the ship with this floor and its design defects present after having been given an opportunity to inspect the ship and the materials on it, including the subject floor, such that Defendant should have known of the design defects of the subject floor before providing it for use by the public. These design defects include, but are not limited to, the structural dangers outlined in Plaintiff's previous summary of the dangerous conditions.
- e. Upon information and belief, there are relevant safety standards/recommendations/codes/other guidelines regarding the safety of the subject floor and its surfaces, handrails, and drains (if any), including, but not limited to, the proper slip-resistance for them, the proper dimensions for them, and their proper functionality, and Defendant should have known of these standards because whether such standards are legally required for Defendant to comply with or not, a fact-finder is entitled to determine, if it so chooses, that these standards/recommendations/other guidelines show what a reasonable Defendant should have done.
- f. For other reasons that may be revealed in discovery, as discovery is ongoing.

16. At all times relevant, the subject area was unreasonably dangerous, risk-creating, defective, outdated, improperly designed, improperly installed, and/or otherwise unsafe.

17. The subject area and the vicinity lacked adequate safety features to prevent Plaintiff's incident.

18. These hazardous conditions were known, or should have been known, to Defendant in the exercise of reasonable care.

19. These hazardous conditions existed for a period of time before the incident.

20. These conditions were neither open nor obvious to any reasonable person.

21. At all times relevant, Defendant failed to adequately inspect the subject area and the vicinity for dangers, and Defendant failed to adequately warn Plaintiff of the dangers.

22. At all times relevant, Defendant failed to eliminate the hazards.

23. At all times relevant, Defendant failed to maintain the subject area and the vicinity in a reasonably safe condition.

24. At all times relevant, Defendant participated in the design and/or approved the design of the subject area and the vicinity involved in Plaintiff's incident.

25. At all times relevant, Defendant participated in the installation and/or approved the installation of the subject area and the vicinity involved in Plaintiff's incident.

26. The crewmembers of the MSC *Divina* were in regular full-time employment of Defendant and/or the ship, as salaried crewmembers, subject to the ship's discipline and master's orders.

27. Defendant had the right to hire and fire its crew.

28. Defendant is directly responsible and liable for its actions and the actions of its crew.

29. The crewmembers were employees and/or actual agents and/or apparent agents of Defendant, and acted within the course and scope of their employment and/or agency agreement and/or relationship.

30. The crewmembers were represented to Plaintiff and the ship's passengers as employees of Defendant through signs, documents, and/or uniforms. The crewmembers were also paid a salary and/or an hourly wage by Defendant. Defendant knew that the crewmembers represented themselves to be employees of Defendant and allowed them to represent themselves as such. Plaintiff detrimentally relied on these representations as she would not have proceeded on the subject cruise had he believed the crewmembers were not employees of Defendant.

**COUNT I**  
**NEGLIGENT FAILURE TO WARN OF DANGEROUS CONDITIONS**

31. Plaintiff hereby adopts and re-alleges each and every allegation in paragraphs 1 through 30 as if set forth herein.

32. At all times relevant, Defendant owed a duty to exercise reasonable care under the circumstances for the safety of its passengers, including Plaintiff.

33. Such duty includes, but is not limited to, the duty that Defendant owes to warn passengers of any dangers that it knew or should have known that were not open and obvious to Plaintiff.

34. Such duty also includes, but is not limited to, the duty to warn passengers of hazards which passengers may reasonably be expected to encounter.

35. At all times material, Defendant, through its vessel, crew, agents, employees, staff and/or representatives, who were acting in the course and scope of their employment and/or agency with Defendant, breached the duty of reasonable care owed to Plaintiff and was negligent by failing to warn Plaintiff of the dangerous conditions previously identified in the instant complaint.

36. In addition, Defendant either knew or should have known of these risk creating and/or dangerous conditions, due to reasons that include, but are not limited to, the reasons previously discussed in the instant complaint.

37. These dangerous conditions were also created by Defendant.

38. Defendant either failed to adequately inspect the subject area and the vicinity to ensure that there were no dangerous conditions that passengers needed to be warned of, or Defendant failed to warn Plaintiff despite knowing of the dangers.

39. Furthermore, the subject area and the vicinity were also on a cruise ship in the open water subject to numerous maritime conditions such as the ship's movement, additional wear and tear due to maritime conditions not necessarily present on land, waves, and other conditions unique to maritime travel, and as such were "clearly linked to nautical adventure."

40. Defendant's breach was the cause in-fact of Plaintiff's great bodily harm in that, but for Defendant's breach, Plaintiff's injuries would not have occurred.

41. Defendant's breach proximately caused Plaintiff great bodily harm in that the incident that occurred was a foreseeable result of Defendant's breach of its duty to Plaintiff of reasonable care under the circumstances.

42. As a result of Defendant's negligence, Plaintiff has suffered severe bodily injury resulting in pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, lost wages, and loss of future earning capacity, and loss of the value of Plaintiff's vacation, cruise, and transportation costs.

43. The losses are either permanent or continuing in nature.

44. Plaintiff has suffered these losses in the past and will continue to suffer such losses in the future.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, MILIGZA RIVERA, demands Judgment against Defendant, MSC CRUISES, S.A., for damages suffered and costs incurred, as well as for damages and costs

that Plaintiff will suffer and incur in the future, as a result of Plaintiff's bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, scarring, mental anguish, hospitalization, medical care and treatment, nursing care and treatment, lost wages, loss of ability to earn money, loss of the value of Plaintiff's vacation, cruise, and transportation costs, loss of important bodily functions, and loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life; for all court costs, pre- and post-judgment interest, and for any and all other relief which the Court deems just or appropriate.

**COUNT II**  
**NEGLIGENCE DESIGN, INSTALLATION, AND/OR APPROVAL OF THE SUBJECT**  
**AREA AND THE VICINITY**

45. Plaintiff hereby adopts and re-alleges each and every allegation in paragraphs 1 through 30, as if set forth herein.

46. At all times material hereto, Defendant owed a duty to its passengers, and in particular to Plaintiff, not to permit hazards to be in places where they could harm passengers, such as the area of the incident, as well as to design and install reasonable safeguards.

47. At all times material hereto, Defendant participated in the design process of the subject vessel by generating design specifications for the shipbuilder to follow, and put the vessel on which Plaintiff was injured into the channels of trade, and/or Defendant approved of the subject vessel's design, including the design of the subject area and the vicinity.

48. At all times material hereto, Defendant manufactured, designed, installed, and/or approved of the MSC *Divina*, including providing specifications to the shipbuilder in the original build process, and/or during its refurbishments, and as such owed a duty to its passengers, and in particular to Plaintiff, to design, install and/or approve of the subject area and the vicinity without any defects.

49. Defendant provides design elements of the vessels to the ship builder and/or approves

of design elements which include the subject area and the vicinity.

50. Defendant maintains the contractual right to participate, review, modify, and/or reject the design plans and drawings of the vessels, including the MSC *Divina*, during the new build process.

51. Defendant has the right to enter the ship and inspect it during construction to ensure that it is being constructed in accordance with the design specifications and has a right to insist on changes when safety concerns are identified.

52. Defendant has the right to inspect and reject design elements before taking possession of the ship.

53. At all times material hereto, Defendant knew or had reason to know of the dangerous conditions previously identified in the instant complaint, due to reasons that include, but are not limited to, those reasons previously discussed in the instant complaint.

54. Defendant also should have known of these dangerous conditions through inspecting the subject area and the vicinity involved in Plaintiff's incident, and if it did not know of these dangerous conditions, this was because it failed to adequately inspect the subject area and the vicinity involved in Plaintiff's incident.

55. However, Defendant through its agents and/or employees who were acting in the course and scope of their employment and/or agency with Defendant, designed, installed, and/or approved of the subject area and the vicinity involved in Plaintiff's incident, which was also in violation of the applicable industry standards/recommendations/and/or other guidelines, and Defendant approved of the ship's and area's design when it accepted the subject ship from the shipbuilder, among other instances of approval.

56. Negligent design is a cognizable claim under general maritime law, and it can be

proven through evidence that a Defendant approved of the designs at issue. *See, e.g., Hoover v. NCL (Bahamas) Ltd.*, No. 19-22906-CIV, 2020 WL 5834742, at \*2 (S.D. Fla. Sept. 29, 2020).

57. Furthermore, the subject area and the vicinity were also on a cruise ship in the open water subject to numerous maritime conditions such as the ship's movement, additional wear and tear due to maritime conditions not necessarily present on land, waves, and other conditions unique to maritime travel, and as such were "clearly linked to nautical adventure."

58. However, Defendant permitted dangerous deficiencies to be present in the subject area and the vicinity without correcting these design deficiencies, and did not design and install reasonable safeguards.

59. The design flaws that made the subject area and the vicinity involved in Plaintiff's incident unreasonably dangerous were the direct and proximate cause of Plaintiff's injuries.

60. Defendant is liable for the design flaws of the vessel, including of the subject area and the vicinity involved in Plaintiff's incident, which it knew or should have known of.

61. Defendant failed to correct and/or remedy the defective conditions despite the fact that it knew or should have known their danger.

62. As a result of Defendant's negligence, Plaintiff has suffered severe bodily injury resulting in pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, lost wages, and loss of future earning capacity, and loss of the value of Plaintiff's vacation, cruise, and transportation costs.

63. The losses are either permanent or continuing in nature.

64. Plaintiff has suffered these losses in the past and will continue to suffer such losses in the future.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, MILIGZA RIVERA, demands Judgment against Defendant, MSC CRUISES, S.A., for damages suffered and costs incurred, as well as for damages and costs that Plaintiff will suffer and incur in the future, as a result of Plaintiff's bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, scarring, mental anguish, hospitalization, medical care and treatment, nursing care and treatment, lost wages, loss of ability to earn money, loss of the value of Plaintiff's vacation, cruise, and transportation costs, loss of important bodily functions, and loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life; for all court costs, pre- and post-judgment interest, and for any and all other relief which the Court deems just or appropriate.

**COUNT III**

**NEGLIGENCE AGAINST DEFENDANT FOR THE ACTS OF ITS CREWMEMBERS  
BASED ON VICARIOUS LIABILITY**

65. Plaintiff hereby adopts and re-alleges each and every allegation in paragraphs 1 through 30, as if set forth herein.

66. Defendant owed a duty to exercise reasonable care under the circumstances for the safety of its passengers.

67. To the extent Defendant contests its responsibility for the conduct of its crew members, including the crew member(s) that failed to adequately inspect, clean, and/or maintain the subject area and the vicinity, warn passengers of the risk creating and/or dangerous conditions, and/or do other activities to help make sure the subject area and the vicinity were safe, Plaintiff alleges that these individuals were agents of Defendant, for the following reasons:

68. The crewmembers were the employees of Defendant, or were Defendant's agents, apparent agents, and/or servants.

69. The crewmembers were subject to the right of control by Defendant.

70. The crewmembers were acting within the scope of their employment or agency.

71. Defendant acknowledged that the crew and officers would act on Defendant's behalf, and they accepted the undertaking.

72. Defendant is vicariously liable for the acts of its crewmembers.

73. This negligence proximately caused Plaintiff great bodily harm in that, but for this negligence, Plaintiff's injuries would not have occurred.

74. As a result of Defendant's negligence, Plaintiff has suffered severe bodily injury resulting in pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, lost wages, and loss of future earning capacity, and loss of the value of Plaintiff's vacation, cruise, and transportation costs.

75. The losses are either permanent or continuing in nature.

76. Plaintiff has suffered these losses in the past and will continue to suffer such losses in the future.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, MILIGZA RIVERA, demands Judgment against Defendant, MSC CRUISES, S.A., for damages suffered and costs incurred, as well as for damages and costs that Plaintiff will suffer and incur in the future, as a result of Plaintiff's bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, scarring, mental anguish, hospitalization, medical care and treatment, nursing care and treatment, lost wages, loss of ability to earn money, loss of the value of Plaintiff's vacation, cruise, and transportation costs, loss of important bodily functions, and loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life; for all court costs, pre- and post-judgment interest, and for any and all other relief which the Court deems just or appropriate.

**COUNT IV**

**NEGLIGENT FAILURE TO INSPECT, CLEAN, MAINTAIN, REPAIR, REMEDY,**  
**AND/OR TAKE OTHER REASONABLE MEASURES FOR THE SAFETY OF**  
**PLAINTIFF**

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77. Plaintiff hereby adopts and re-alleges each and every allegation in paragraphs 1 through 30 as if set forth herein.

78. Defendant owed a duty to exercise reasonable care under the circumstances for the safety of its passengers.

79. This duty includes, but is not limited to, the duty to provide its passengers reasonable care by adequately inspecting, cleaning, maintaining, repairing, and/or remedying the subject area and the vicinity, and/or making other efforts to make sure the subject area and the vicinity were safe for the use and enjoyment of its passengers.

80. At all times material, Defendant, through its vessel, crew, agents, employees, staff and/or representatives, who were acting in the course and scope of their employment and/or agency with Defendant, breached the duty of reasonable care owed to Plaintiff and were negligent by failing to adequately inspect, clean, maintain, repair, and/or remedy the subject area and the vicinity, and/or to make other efforts to make sure the subject area and the vicinity were safe, such that the unreasonably risk creating and/or dangerous conditions previously identified in the instant complaint were present at the time of Plaintiff's incident.

81. In addition, Defendant either knew or should have known of these risk-creating and/or dangerous conditions, due to reasons that include, but are not limited to, the reasons previously discussed in the instant complaint.

82. Moreover, these risk creating and/or dangerous conditions were caused by design defects and/or by Defendant's failure to adequately inspect, clean, maintain, repair, and/or remedy the subject area and the vicinity, and/or make other efforts to make sure the subject area and the vicinity were safe.

83. Defendant's failure to adequately clean, maintain, repair, and/or remedy the subject

area and the vicinity, and/or to make other efforts to make sure the subject area and the vicinity were safe, was either due to its failure to adequately inspect the subject area and the vicinity prior to Plaintiff's incident to ensure they were in a reasonably safe condition, or due to its failure to adequately clean, maintain, repair, and/or remedy the subject area and the vicinity, and/or to make other efforts to make sure the subject area and the vicinity were safe, despite its knowledge of the dangerous conditions, which posed a risk to its passengers.

84. Furthermore, the subject area and the vicinity were also on a cruise ship in the open water subject to numerous maritime conditions such as the ship's movement, additional wear and tear due to maritime conditions not necessarily present on land, waves, and other conditions unique to maritime travel, and as such were "clearly linked to nautical adventure."

85. Defendant's negligence proximately caused Plaintiff great bodily harm in that, but for Defendant's negligence, Plaintiff's injuries would not have occurred.

86. As a result of Defendant's negligence, Plaintiff has suffered severe bodily injury resulting in pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, lost wages, and loss of future earning capacity, loss of the value of Plaintiff's vacation, cruise, and transportation costs.

87. The losses are either permanent or continuing in nature.

88. Plaintiff has suffered these losses in the past and will continue to suffer such losses in the future.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, MILIGZA RIVERA, demands Judgment against Defendant, MSC CRUISES, S.A., for damages suffered and costs incurred, as well as for damages and costs that Plaintiff will suffer and incur in the future, as a result of Plaintiff's bodily injury, pain and

suffering, disability, disfigurement, scarring, mental anguish, hospitalization, medical care and treatment, nursing care and treatment, lost wages, and lost earning capacity, loss of the value of Plaintiff's vacation, cruise, and transportation costs, loss of important bodily functions, and loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life; for all court costs, pre- and post-judgment interest, and for any and all other relief which the Court deems just or appropriate.

**COUNT V**

**VICARIOUS LIABILITY FOR THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE SHIP'S MEDICAL STAFF**

89. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as though originally alleged herein the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 30, and further alleges:

90. Defendant, through the ship's medical staff (including its physicians and nurses), and the ship's crew, owed a duty to exercise reasonable care under the circumstances for the safety of its passengers.

91. Such duties include, but are not limited to, providing such medical care and assistance as would an ordinarily prudent person under the circumstances.

92. At all times material, the ship's medical staff (including its physicians and nurses), and the ship's crew, were full time employees and agents of Defendant, subject to its direction and control, who were engaged in the activity of discharging Defendant's obligation to make such medical aid and assistance available to its passengers as would an ordinarily prudent person under the circumstances.

93. Defendant is estopped to deny that the ship's medical staff (including its physicians and nurses), and the ship's crew, were its agents and/or employees and/or servants.

94. Defendant directly paid the ship's medical personnel and regular crew a salary (i.e., payment by time) for their work in the ship's hospital and in treating passengers.

95. Defendant created, owned, directly provided, and operated, the medical center to be used by the ship's medical personnel and passengers.

96. Defendant pays to stock the medical center with all supplies, medical machinery, various medicines, and equipment to be used therein, regularly stocking and restocking same.

97. Defendant collected all medical revenues directly from passengers and generated a profit on the sale of medical services, supplies, and equipment made by the ship's medical personnel to the passengers of the vessel.

98. Defendant's marketing materials described the infirmary in proprietary language.

99. The ship's medical personnel were members of the ship's crew; they were subject to the ship's discipline; they were required to wear the ship's uniforms; they (and, in particular, the ship's physicians) were members of the ship's officer's compliment, and at all times they were subject to termination, or other discipline, by Defendant.

100. Defendant provided the ship's medical personnel certain forms of liability insurance and/or indemnification rights.

101. Defendant, through the ship's medical staff (including its physicians and nurses), and the ship's crew, breached its duties, and was negligent by failing to adequately examine, diagnose, and/or treat Plaintiff's injuries.

102. Furthermore, Defendant, through its employees and/or agents, breached its duties, and was negligent because the physicians and/or other crew members that were responsible for treating Plaintiff lacked adequate experience in treating the injuries PLAINTIFF suffered.

103. Defendant, through the ship's medical staff (including its physicians and nurses), and the ship's crew, also breached its duties and was negligent by failing to adequately supply

and equip its medical center to be able to adequately examine, diagnose, and treat Plaintiff's injuries.

104. Moreover, Defendant, through the ship's medical staff (including its physicians and nurses), and the ship's crew, breached its duties, and was negligent by failing to take proper measures to ensure that Plaintiff was able to obtain the medical treatment Plaintiff needed in a reasonable amount of time, and as a result, Plaintiff suffered additional injuries and/or Plaintiff's injuries were aggravated and made worse.

105. Additionally, at all times material hereto, Defendant, through the ship's medical staff (including its physicians and nurses), and the ship's crew, was careless, negligent, and breached its duties as follows (for factual details, see the "Factual Allegations" section of the instant complaint):

- a. Failing to treat Plaintiff at Defendant's medical center;
- b. Failing to promptly provide Plaintiff with proper medical care and attention;
- c. Failing to timely and properly diagnose and/or assess Plaintiff's medical condition;
- d. Failing to timely and properly attend to Plaintiff's injuries, and Plaintiff's pain;
- e. Failing to provide reasonable medical care;
- f. Failing to timely and properly treat and care for Plaintiff;
- g. Failing to timely and properly examine Plaintiff's injuries;
- h. Failing to take proper measures to secure proper treatment for Plaintiff, including unreasonably delaying taking measures to secure such proper treatment;
- i. Failing to adequately medically evacuate and/or medically disembark

Plaintiff to receive proper treatment for her injuries;

- j. Failing to properly bring and/or arrange for Plaintiff to be brought to the ship's infirmary/medical center within a reasonable amount of time; and/or
- k. Failing to give Plaintiff proper discharge instructions.

106. Under the doctrine of Respondeat Superior, employers are vicariously liable for the negligent acts or omissions by their employees and/or other agents within the course of their employment and/or agency.

107. Defendant is therefore vicariously liable for all injuries and damages sustained by Plaintiff as a result of the negligence of the ship's medical staff (including its physicians and nurses), and the ship's crew.

108. At all times material hereto, the aforementioned acts or omissions on the part of the Defendant's ship's medical staff (including its physicians and nurses), and the ship's crew, fell below the standard of care.

109. The negligence of Defendant's ship's medical staff (including its physicians and nurses), and the ship's crew, proximately caused Plaintiff great bodily harm in that, but for Defendant's negligence, Plaintiff's injuries would not have occurred and/or said injuries would have been substantially lessened.

110. Defendant, through its employees and agents, to wit, the ship's medical staff, knew or should have known that the medical procedures they employed violated and/or did not meet reasonable standards of medical care.

111. As a result of Defendant's negligence, Plaintiff has suffered severe bodily injury resulting in pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, lost wages,

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and loss of future earning capacity, loss of the value of Plaintiff's vacation, cruise, and transportation costs.

112. The losses are either permanent or continuing in nature.

113. Plaintiff has suffered these losses in the past and will continue to suffer such losses in the future.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, MILIGZA RIVERA, demands Judgment against Defendant, MSC CRUISES, S.A., for damages suffered and costs incurred, as well as for damages and costs that Plaintiff will suffer and incur in the future, as a result of Plaintiff's bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, scarring, mental anguish, hospitalization, medical care and treatment, nursing care and treatment, lost wages, and lost earning capacity, loss of the value of Plaintiff's vacation, cruise, and transportation costs, loss of important bodily functions, and loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life; for all court costs, pre- and post-judgment interest, and for any and all other relief which the Court deems just or appropriate.

**COUNT VI**  
**APPARENT AGENCY**  
**FOR THE ACTS OF THE SHIP'S MEDICAL STAFF**

114. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as though originally alleged herein the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 30, and further alleges:

115. At all times material hereto, the ship's medical staff were represented to Plaintiff and the ship's passengers as employees and/or agents and/or servants of Defendant, in that:

- a. The medical staff wore a ship's uniform;
- b. The medical staff ate with the ship's crew;
- c. The medical staff was under the commands of the ship's officers;
- d. The medical staff worked in the ship's medical department;

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- e. The medical staff was paid a salary by Defendant;
- f. The medical staff worked aboard the vessel;
- g. The medical staff spoke to Plaintiff as though they had authority to do so by Defendant.

116. In addition, Defendant further represented to Plaintiff that the vessel's medical staff were agents and/or employees of Defendant through its marketing materials and through other official statements that described the infirmary in proprietary language, including language such as "MSC's/our infirmary/medical center," and through encouraging Plaintiff to make use of "its" infirmary/medical center if Plaintiff was in need of medical attention.

117. Furthermore, at no time did Defendant represent to Plaintiff in particular, or the ship's passengers in general, in a meaningful way that the vessel's medical staff were not agents or employees of Defendant.

118. At all material times, Plaintiff reasonably relied on the representations to Plaintiff's detriment that the medical staff were employees, and/or agents, and/or servants of Defendant.

119. It was reasonable to believe that the medical staff were Defendant's agents because they wore a ship's uniform. In addition, at all times material, the medical staff spoke and acted as though they were authorized to do so by Defendant.

120. This reasonable reliance was detrimental because it delayed Plaintiff from receiving proper medical treatment and/or Plaintiff would not have gone on the subject cruise with Defendant had Plaintiff known that the medical staff on the ship were not Defendant's agents.

121. Defendant is estopped to deny that the medical staff were its apparent agents, and/or apparent employees, and/or apparent servants.

122. Defendant had a duty to provide Plaintiff with reasonable care under the circumstances and through the acts of its apparent agents breached its duty to provide Plaintiff with reasonable care under the circumstances.

123. Plaintiff's injuries were aggravated due to the fault and/or negligence of Defendant through the acts of its apparent agents as follows (for factual details, see the "Factual Allegations" section of the instant complaint):

- a. Failing to treat Plaintiff at Defendant's medical center;
- b. Failing to promptly provide Plaintiff with proper medical care and attention;
- c. Failing to timely and properly diagnose and/or assess Plaintiff's medical condition;
- d. Failing to timely and properly attend to Plaintiff's injuries, and Plaintiff's pain;
- e. Failing to provide reasonable medical care;
- f. Failing to timely and properly treat and care for Plaintiff;
- g. Failing to timely and properly examine Plaintiff's injuries;
- h. Failing to take proper measures to secure proper treatment for Plaintiff, including unreasonably delaying taking measures to secure such proper treatment;
- i. Failing to adequately medically evacuate and/or medically disembark Plaintiff to receive proper treatment for her injuries;
- j. Failing to properly bring and/or arrange for Plaintiff to be brought to the ship's infirmary/medical center within a reasonable amount of time; and/or
- k. Failing to give Plaintiff proper discharge instructions.

124. As a result of Defendant's negligence, Plaintiff has suffered severe bodily injury

resulting in pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, lost wages, and loss of future earning capacity, loss of the value of Plaintiff's vacation, cruise, and transportation costs.

125. The losses are either permanent or continuing in nature.

126. Plaintiff has suffered these losses in the past and will continue to suffer such losses in the future.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, MILIGZA RIVERA, demands Judgment against Defendant, MSC CRUISES, S.A., for damages suffered and costs incurred, as well as for damages and costs that Plaintiff will suffer and incur in the future, as a result of Plaintiff's bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, scarring, mental anguish, hospitalization, medical care and treatment, nursing care and treatment, lost wages, and lost earning capacity, loss of the value of Plaintiff's vacation, cruise, and transportation costs, loss of important bodily functions, and loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life; for all court costs, pre- and post-judgment interest, and for any and all other relief which the Court deems just or appropriate.

**COUNT VII**  
**ASSUMPTION OF DUTY FOR THE**  
**NEGLIGENCE OF THE SHIP'S MEDICAL STAFF**

127. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as though originally alleged herein the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 30, and further alleges:

128. Defendant owed Plaintiff the duty to exercise reasonable care under the circumstances for the safety of its passengers.

129. Such duties include, but are not limited to, providing such medical care and

assistance as would an ordinarily prudent person under the circumstances.

130. Defendant elected to discharge this duty by having Plaintiff seen by its own ship's physicians and/or other crew members.

131. As such, Defendant voluntarily assumed a duty for the benefit of Plaintiff to use reasonable care in the provision of medical services to Plaintiff.

132. Defendant breached its duties, and was negligent by failing to adequately examine, diagnose, and/or treat Plaintiff's injuries.

133. Furthermore, Defendant breached its duties, and was negligent because the physicians and/or other crew members that were responsible for treating Plaintiff lacked adequate experience in treating injuries such as the one Plaintiff suffered.

134. Defendant also breached its duties and was negligent by failing to adequately supply its medical center to be able to adequately examine, diagnose, and treat Plaintiff's injuries.

135. Defendant breached its duties and was negligent by failing to take proper measures to ensure that Plaintiff was able to obtain the medical treatment Plaintiff needed in a reasonable amount of time, and as a result, Plaintiff suffered additional injuries and/or PLAINTIFF' injuries were aggravated and made worse.

136. Additionally, at all times material hereto, Defendant was careless, negligent, and breached its duties as follows (for factual details, see the "Factual Allegations" section of the instant complaint):

- a. Failing to treat Plaintiff at Defendant's medical center;
- b. Failing to promptly provide Plaintiff with proper medical care and attention;
- c. Failing to timely and properly diagnose and/or assess Plaintiff's medical condition;

- d. Failing to timely and properly attend to Plaintiff's injuries, and Plaintiff's pain;
- e. Failing to provide reasonable medical care;
- f. Failing to timely and properly treat and care for Plaintiff;
- g. Failing to timely and properly examine Plaintiff's injuries;
- h. Failing to take proper measures to secure proper treatment for Plaintiff, including unreasonably delaying taking measures to secure such proper treatment;
- i. Failing to adequately medically evacuate and/or medically disembark Plaintiff to receive proper treatment for her injuries;
- j. Failing to properly bring and/or arrange for Plaintiff to be brought to the ship's infirmary/medical center within a reasonable amount of time; and/or
- k. Failing to give Plaintiff proper discharge instructions.

137. At all times material hereto, the aforementioned acts or omissions on the part of Defendant fell below the standard of care.

138. Defendant's negligence proximately caused Plaintiff great bodily harm in that, but for Defendant's negligence, Plaintiff's injuries would not have occurred, would have been substantially lessened, and/or would not have been aggravated.

139. Defendant, through its employees and agents, to wit, the ship's medical staff, knew, or should have known, that the medical procedures they employed violated reasonable standards of medical care.

140. As a result of Defendant's negligence, Plaintiff has suffered severe bodily injury resulting in pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of capacity for the

enjoyment of life, expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, lost wages, and loss of future earning capacity, loss of the value of Plaintiff's vacation, cruise, and transportation costs.

141. The losses are either permanent or continuing in nature.

142. Plaintiff has suffered these losses in the past and will continue to suffer such losses in the future.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, MILIGZA RIVERA, demands Judgment against Defendant, MSC CRUISES, S.A., for damages suffered and costs incurred, as well as for damages and costs that Plaintiff will suffer and incur in the future, as a result of Plaintiff's bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, scarring, mental anguish, hospitalization, medical care and treatment, nursing care and treatment, lost wages, and lost earning capacity, loss of the value of Plaintiff's vacation, cruise, and transportation costs, loss of important bodily functions, and loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life; for all court costs, pre- and post-judgment interest, and for any and all other relief which the Court deems just or appropriate.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff, MILIGZA RIVERA, demands trial by jury on all issues so triable.

**Dated:** May 3, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Matthias M. Hayashi*

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